

ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS UP 8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

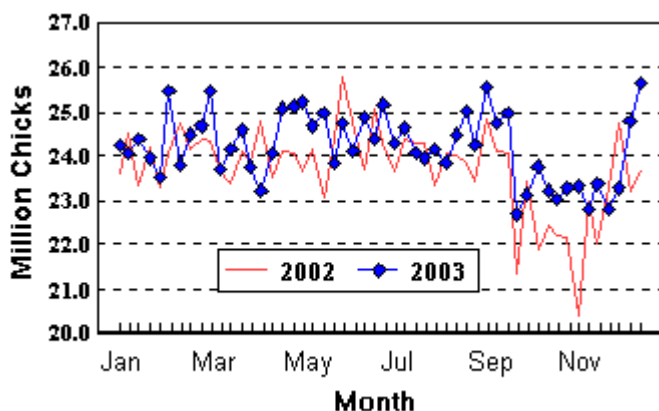
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 25.7 million during the week ending December 27, 2003. Placements were up 8 percent from the comparable week in 2002, and up 4 percent from the previous week, and included 3.0 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through December 27, 2003 were 1.26 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 25.5 million, up 5 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, but down slightly from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 2.7 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.6 percent.

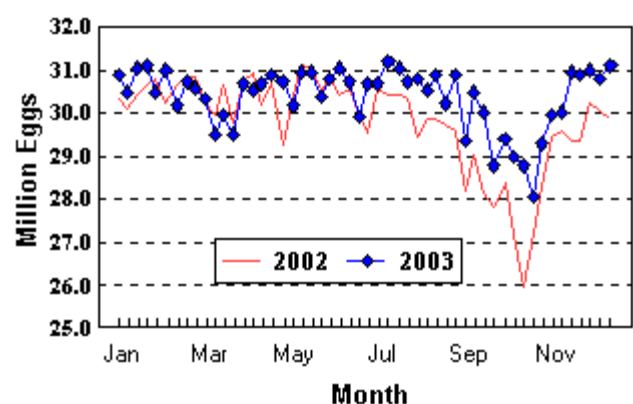
Arkansas hatcheries set 31.1 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending December 27, 2003, up 4 percent from the same period last year, and up 1 percent from the previous week.

| Week Ending | NET PLACEMENTS | | | CHICKS HATCHED | | | EGGS SET | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------|----------|----------------|--------|----------|--------------|--------|----------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | % Change | 2002 | 2003 | % Change | 2002 | 2003 | % Change |
| | <i>1,000</i> | | | <i>1,000</i> | | | <i>1,000</i> | | |
| Nov. 22 | 22,968 | 22,777 | 99 | 22,459 | 23,123 | 103 | 29,624 | 29,996 | 101 |
| Nov. 29 | 21,996 | 23,381 | 106 | 23,319 | 24,188 | 104 | 29,362 | 30,923 | 105 |
| Dec. 6 | 23,291 | 22,786 | 98 | 24,209 | 24,832 | 103 | 29,336 | 30,882 | 105 |
| Dec. 13 | 24,762 | 23,280 | 94 | 24,415 | 25,142 | 103 | 30,240 | 30,992 | 102 |
| Dec. 20 | 23,254 | 24,764 | 106 | 24,244 | 25,552 | 105 | 30,054 | 30,777 | 102 |
| Dec. 27 | 23,721 | 25,686 | 108 | 24,193 | 25,519 | 105 | 29,870 | 31,091 | 104 |

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2002-2003



EGGS SET, 2002 - 2003



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003

| STATE | EGGS SET (in Thousands) | | | | | CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands) | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| | Week Ending | | | | 1/ % | Week Ending | | | | | | 1/ % |
| | 06-Dec | 13-Dec | 20-Dec | 27-Dec | | 22-Nov | 29-Nov | 06-Dec | 13-Dec | 20-Dec | 27-Dec | |
| Alabama | 29,379 | 29,560 | 29,419 * | 29,541 | 108 | 19,326 | 21,133 | 21,822 | 21,878 | 21,240 * | 22,003 | 102 |
| ARKANSAS | 30,882 * | 30,992 | 30,777 | 31,091 | 104 | 22,777 | 23,381 | 22,786 | 23,280 | 24,764 | 25,686 | 108 |
| Delaware | 3,828 | 3,805 | 3,777 | 3,740 | 108 | 4,901 | 6,159 | 4,892 | 4,689 | 4,857 | 4,349 | 98 |
| Florida | 1,354 | 1,354 | 1,353 | 1,353 | 87 | 1,548 | 1,809 | 1,644 | 1,420 | 1,827 * | 1,703 | 106 |
| Georgia | 32,538 * | 33,269 | 32,128 | 32,811 | 106 | 23,264 | 24,971 | 25,137 | 24,688 | 26,081 * | 26,148 | 107 |
| Kentucky | 6,965 | 6,768 | 6,781 | 6,647 | 107 | 5,219 | 5,051 | 5,432 | 5,849 | 5,761 * | 5,688 | 105 |
| Maryland | 8,763 | 8,868 | 8,884 | 8,810 | 90 | 5,636 | 5,243 | 5,299 | 5,942 | 6,101 | 6,277 | 98 |
| Mississippi | 19,237 | 19,396 | 19,182 | 18,908 | 100 | 14,292 | 15,146 | 15,738 | 15,804 | 16,328 * | 16,463 | 109 |
| N. Carolina | 16,278 * | 18,004 | 18,046 | 17,187 | 95 | 13,844 | 14,130 | 14,550 | 14,354 | 14,608 | 13,481 | 96 |
| Oklahoma | 6,358 | 6,371 | 6,442 | 6,314 | 105 | 4,255 | 4,476 | 5,858 | 5,512 | 4,383 | 3,880 | 88 |
| Pennsylvania | 3,795 | 3,624 | 3,799 * | 3,823 | 106 | 2,496 | 2,674 | 2,663 | 2,669 | 2,646 * | 2,592 | 102 |
| S. Carolina | 3,794 | 3,861 | 3,517 | 3,614 | 74 | 4,325 | 4,294 | 4,273 | 3,842 | 4,469 | 3,928 | 100 |
| Texas | 14,151 | 13,879 | 14,882 | 14,631 | 98 | 11,887 | 12,276 | 12,030 | 12,292 | 12,356 | 11,822 | 101 |
| Virginia | 6,438 | 6,349 | 6,325 | 6,174 | 98 | 4,953 | 4,527 | 5,822 | 5,285 | 5,131 | 4,985 | 92 |
| CA, LA, MO, TN, WV | 20,653 | 20,438 | 21,068 | 20,726 | 108 | 17,971 | 19,141 | 19,868 | 19,187 | 19,581 | 18,844 | 107 |
| Total 2003 | 204,413 * | 206,538 | 206,380 * | 205,370 | | 156,694 | 164,411 | 167,814 | 166,691 | 170,133 * | 167,849 | |
| Total 2002 | 199,994 | 203,251 | 200,056 | 201,018 | | 154,972 | 161,690 | 161,841 | 163,147 | 164,898 | 162,414 | |
| %Prev. Year | 102 | 102 | 103 | 102 | | 101 | 102 | 104 | 102 | 103 | 103 | |
| Approximate Marketing Date 2004..... | | | | | | 10-Jan | 17-Jan | 24-Jan | 31-Jan | 07-Feb | 14-Feb | |

* Revised. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 205 million eggs during the week ending December 27, 2003. This was up 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 168 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 27, 2003. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through December 27, 2003 were 8.65 billion, down slightly from the same period a year earlier.